

Don't be a victim of unscrupulous or unlicensed contractors.

Before you sign a contract; before you pay for repairs; contact the Contractors State License Board at 1-800-321-CSLB (2752) or www.cslb.ca.gov

General advice

- **Do** be aware that seniors—including those in mobile homes—have been targeted by scam artists posing as contractors.
- **Don't** rush into the repairs.
- **Do** be wary of door-to-door solicitations.
- **Don't** be swayed by solicitors' scare tactics.
- **Don't** hire the first contractor who comes along.



Call the Contractors Board

- **Do** contact the Contractors State License Board. Call the toll-free number at 1-800-321-CSLB (2752); or visit the website at www.cslb.ca.gov.
- **Do** be aware that for any contracting job totalling \$500 or more, the contractor must have a valid California Contractors License.
- **Do** ask to see the contractor's pocket license, plus additional identification.
- **Do** note the California Contractors license number, name and business address.
- **Do** contact the CSLB to verify that the information is correct and the license is in good standing.
- **Do** order a copy of *What You Should Know Before You Hire a Contractor*, a consumer-friendly booklet to help you make informed decisions about dealing with contractors. To get your copy, call the toll-free number or mail your request to CSLB Publications, P.O. Box 26000, Sacramento, CA 95826.

The Contract

- **Do** get your contract in writing and do not sign anything until you understand the terms.
- **Do** ask a friend or relative if you are unsure about the contract or repairs.
- **Do** check that your three-day cancellation rights are printed on the contract.

Financial information

- **Don't** pay cash.
- **Do** know how much to give as a deposit. Contractors cannot ask for more than 10% or \$1000, whichever is less—unless the contractor provides a bond, approved bond equivalent, or approved joint control ensuring completion of your contract. Any such bond is in addition to the bond required of all contractors for licensure.



You can do more to protect yourself before hiring a contractor than the Contractors State License Board can do to help after you've been harmed. Contact the Contractors State License Board now for valuable information on selecting a contractor.



*Upon request,
the Contractors
State License
Board provides*

*information about a contractor's
license, bond status, and workers'
compensation as well as pending
and prior legal actions.*

Legal Action History

For information about a contractor's license history and pending or prior legal actions, you must call the appropriate Region Legal Action Disclosure phone number:

- Northern Region (916) 255-4041
- Southern Region (714) 994-7450

Complaint Forms

If you have a complaint against a contractor, contact the Board and ask for a copy of "A Consumer Guide to Filing Construction Complaints" and the complaint form.

- Call our toll-free phone number at 1-800-321-CSLB (2752); or
- Visit our web site at www.cslb.ca.gov; or
- Mail your request to CSLB Publications, P.O. Box 26000, Sacramento, CA 95826.



*Before you sign a contract;
Before you pay for repairs;*

*Call the Contractors State
License Board toll-free:*

1-800-321-CSLB (2752)

or visit our website at:

www.cslb.ca.gov

Contractors State License Board
Dr. C. Lance Barnett, *Registrar*
P.O. Box 26000, Sacramento, CA 95826

5/99

**Do's & Don'ts for
California Seniors**

***What Seniors
Should Know***

**BEFORE
HIRING A
CONTRACTOR**

